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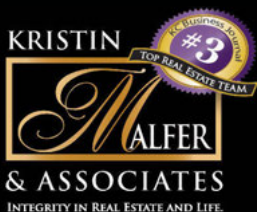


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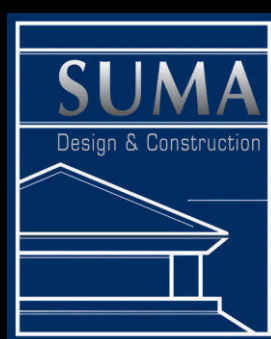


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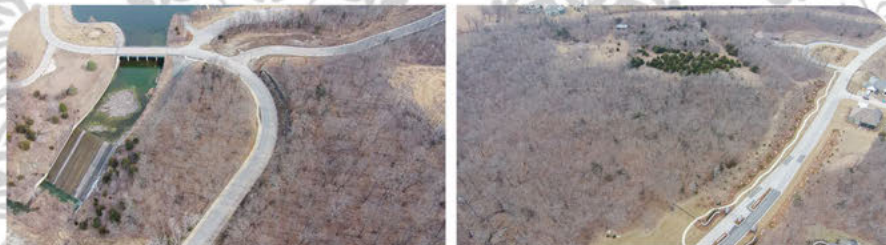


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JULY/AUGUST 2015

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ABOUT THE COVER...

This historic Lake Lotawana gem delivers good energy and a fun vibe with its welcoming presence.

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Inside this issue, we found some local lake homes that charm and delight. The restoration of Ruth Finet's Lake Lotawana home takes us back to a simpler time (page 18), Rosehill Garden's Prairie Lee Lake backyard transformation gives us a piece of heaven on earth (page 36), while an unassuming Lake Quivira backyard becomes the perfect gathering place for family and friends (page 52).

Whether you've spent the day on the water or on the land,

there's nothing like diving into some great seafood. Sip, slurp and shuck to your heart's content at Kansas City's abundance of fish houses. Some of our fish faves can be found on page 66. Dig in and get your hands dirty, it's part of the experience!

The weather here in town lends to evenings outdoors and relaxing on the deck is the perfect spot to enjoy this down time. Decks have come a long way from being the afterthought add-on. Screened in, fireplaces, sound systems and tvs have all made their way into this new room. We found three decks that are perfect for propping up your feet (page 43) and pulled together some fun items that can't wait to be on your deck (page 32).

Looking fashionable while you're out and about is always top of mind. Heading to the K, First Fridays at Crossroads or catching a show at Starlight, we have the perfect pairings of hats and sandals for you. Take a peek on page 60.

Get outside Kansas City! Enjoy what living here offers — you won't be disappointed. ■

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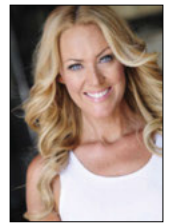
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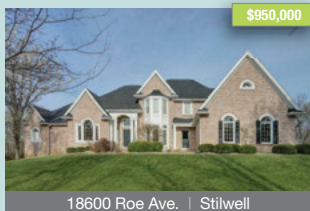
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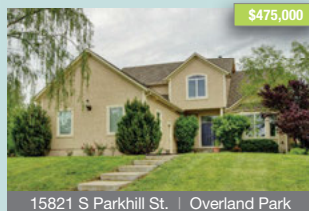
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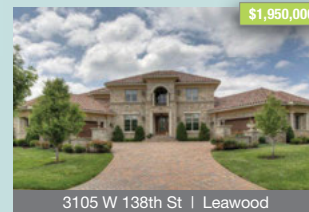
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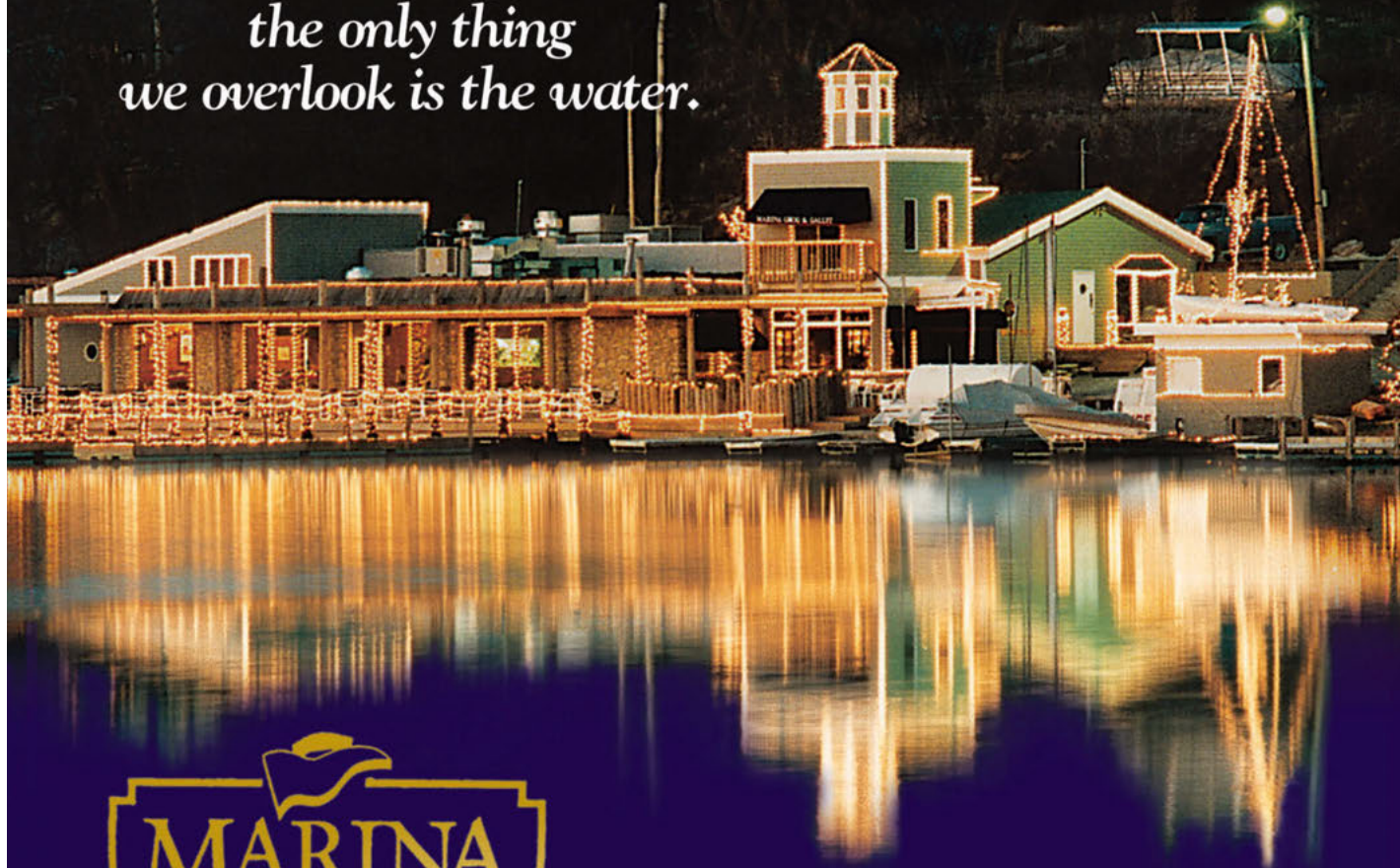


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If These Walls Could Talk...



Ruth Finet poses with an original photo of the home taken in 1929.

Well, They Did, Actually!

This historic Lake Lotawana gem delivers good energy and a fun vibe with its welcoming presence.

Story by Ann E. Butenas | Photos by Matt Kocourek

When Ruth Finet first crossed the threshold into the run-down, overgrown, neglected and worn out home located on Lake Lotawana a few years ago, she instinctively knew it had her name written all over it. She and her husband Tom had been looking for the perfect lake home and they discovered it in this 1929 historic gem. Well, perhaps it was more like a diamond in the rough initially, but its potential was undeniable... and quite possibly unforgivable if not brought back to life.

With their primary residence in Cedar Creek, Ruth and Tom decided it would be fun to have a lake house to which they could retreat with family and friends. Ruth, who is owner of The Korner Shoppe, a flower shop on the Sprint Campus in

Overland Park, had lived at the lake prior to marrying Tom, who works in the energy business, and had developed a host of fabulous friendships over the years. Now that they had combined their families, it seemed like a great idea to purchase a lake home for everyone to enjoy.

Of course, Ruth will admit that Tom was not as initially smitten as she was about this residence.

"When we first reached the front stoop, he simply asked me, 'Do we really need to go any further?'" Ruth recalled. "At the time the yard was overgrown and the house was in pretty bad shape."

However, her gut instinct told her to give it a minute, and without further hesitation, she walked in the front door and immediately knew this was the one.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE



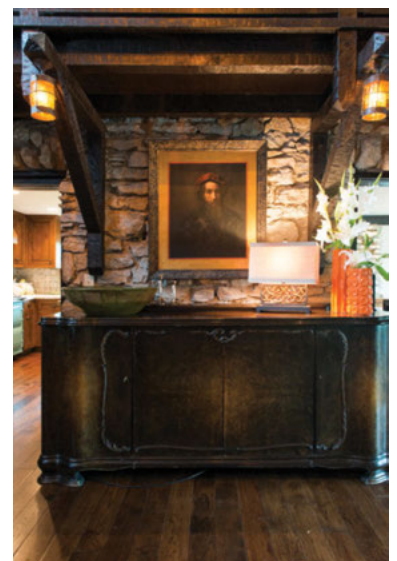
"There was something about the overall feel and vibe of the house that overtook me," noted Ruth. "It just spoke to me in a way that suggested it wanted to come alive again."

This turn of the century home was the second residence built on Lake Lotawana by Lou Holland, an industrious man who was primarily responsible for getting the downtown airport established in Kansas City, as well as initiating airmail services through Kansas City. This home, known as Rock Holland Pointe (in tribute to the Hollands, the rock from which it is made, and the point of Union Bay at Lotawana), was his full-time residence and at the time included a 10-acre parcel across the street from the main home. Additionally, there was a large barn, which is still in use today as a barn for hay and horses. It was formerly Lou's woodworking shop and some of his creations can still be seen today as he made some of the doors in the home.

"Lou and his wife Lorraine lived in the home until they passed away. Lou was in his 80s and Lorraine was close to 100," said Ruth. "Two other families owned it subsequent to the Hollands and before Tom and I bought it. And even though Tom was somewhat bewildered as to why we would even consider buying it, the place immediately felt like that 'lake home' I wanted to own."

Fortunately, the walls spoke loud and clear enough for Ruth to understand, and her enthusiastic response resulted in a 22-month complete renovation and preservation of the home, breathing new life into it while still preserving its former spirit.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE









While the exterior of the home boasts 196 feet of water front property, along with a dock where friends and family gather to board the pontoon (a/k/a “cocktail cruiser!”) to get out on the lake, it is the interior of the residence that truly intoxicates the senses.

Partnering with contractor Greg Smetanka, Ruth and Tom knew this would be a “roll up your sleeves and wipe the sweat from your brow” endeavor, but they were up to the task and bear no regrets with respect to the end result.

“When we met with Greg, we were initially considering just painting over the existing paneling, fix up the bathrooms and the kitchen,” noted Ruth.

However, after Ruth learned from her real estate agent that the house previously had an outdoor patio that was enclosed, but later on the windows overlooking that patio were covered with mirrors and subsequently became walls, Ruth’s plans shifted gears.

“I wanted to open the walls where the mirrors were,” said Ruth. “And when we opened them up and got behind the paneling to get to the windows, we discovered stone (local limestone from 1929), and as we kept opening it up, stone was revealed on all the main level walls. It quickly escalated to a bigger project at that point.”

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE



Upon that exciting discovery, Ruth knew this house deserved to be restored for its historical meaning. After all, the locals have always referred to it as “the Holland House” and Ruth was unwavering in her commitment to help it come alive again.

“The house deserved to be awakened,” she smiled. “Sometimes I would just stand on the balcony that overlooks the main level inside and just listen. It was as if the house was thanking me for what we were doing.”

The home boasts wood flooring throughout — no carpeting — and since the wiring to update the home could not go through the stone, Smetanka accentuated on the ceiling beams and also put big beamed doorways in several areas through which the wiring was placed and remains hidden. The two-story open floor plan with vaulted ceilings lends itself to the residence’s grand style.

Upon completion of the project, Ruth and Tom hosted an open house and invited some of the Holland’s descendants over for a visit.

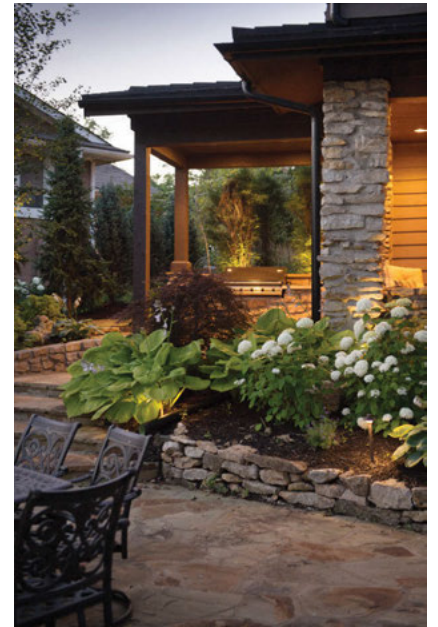
“They were so grateful to see what we had done and were in tears. They began to reflect on their memories of spending time in the house when they were young,” stated Ruth.

“In reality, I really don’t feel as if the house is truly mine,” reflected Ruth. “I consider myself its current caretaker. I plan to own it until I drop dead and hope that the next owners feel the same way about it as Tom and I do. It really is a fun space and everyone who comes here feels that good energy and welcoming feeling. When I walk inside now, I feel as if I am getting a comforting and familiar hug.”

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE







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 Window coverings – silhouettes & woven woods: [Sebring & Company](#) | Window covering installation: [Metro Drapery](#) | Window coverings - fabricated all draperies, pillows, shower curtains: [Jeannie's Draperies](#)
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GARDEN OBSESSION

Walk into Van Liew's Home and Garden and you instantly become part of the 88 year long story of gardening inspiration that has helped fuel the passion of the City of Fountains. Michelle Smith, Vice President of Van Liew's and granddaughter of the original owner, Clarence Van Liew, shares how the industry has come of age and is now providing new inspiration for a new generation.



KCHS: *What do you feel has changed about the gardening accessories industry over the last few decades and why has it gained such a renewed interest?*

MICHELLE: I think several things have changed. One is the trend to spend more time outdoors and really make your yard a functional space. Another is the industry has responded to the needs of a younger market and responded with a wider range of design styles. Now, whether you prefer the traditional or want a space that reflects your indoor style, you can have that.

KCHS: *If I have a backyard that is a clean slate, where would I start if I wanted to create a beautiful outdoor space?*

MICHELLE: Well, it is important to remember that you can start small. Start with a couple of beautiful planters. Also you do not have to do everything all at once. One thing we find is helpful is to hire a landscape designer that is willing to help you design a plan and work in stages. That way you can achieve the look you want and invest over time.

KCHS: *Are there ways you can add beauty without spending a fortune?*

MICHELLE: Absolutely. There are so many options available at every price point that you can add tremendous impact without having to invest too much. My favorite way to do that is through fountains. Fountains add a huge impact, are multisensory, and come in a wide range of styles. Another great thing about fountains is that they now come in concrete reinforced fiberglass options which not only reduces the cost, but makes transport possible for the bigger and more substantially sized options.

KCHS: *What is the latest gardening trend we should consider?*

MICHELLE: I think kinetic spinners are the most popular new trend. They are sculptural, beautiful, and add movement to the garden. They are similar to those pinwheels we know from childhood, but come in many sizes and are made from various metals.

KCHS: *What kind of ornaments adorn your yard?*

MICHELLE: Ah! I think it might be the case of the cobbler's kids being last to get shoes! We recently moved to a new home and had twins which have kept our household very busy. Like many people, I have not had the time I would like to spend on my yard. What I have done is the exact thing I recommend to our customers under similar circumstances — I added a fountain! ■



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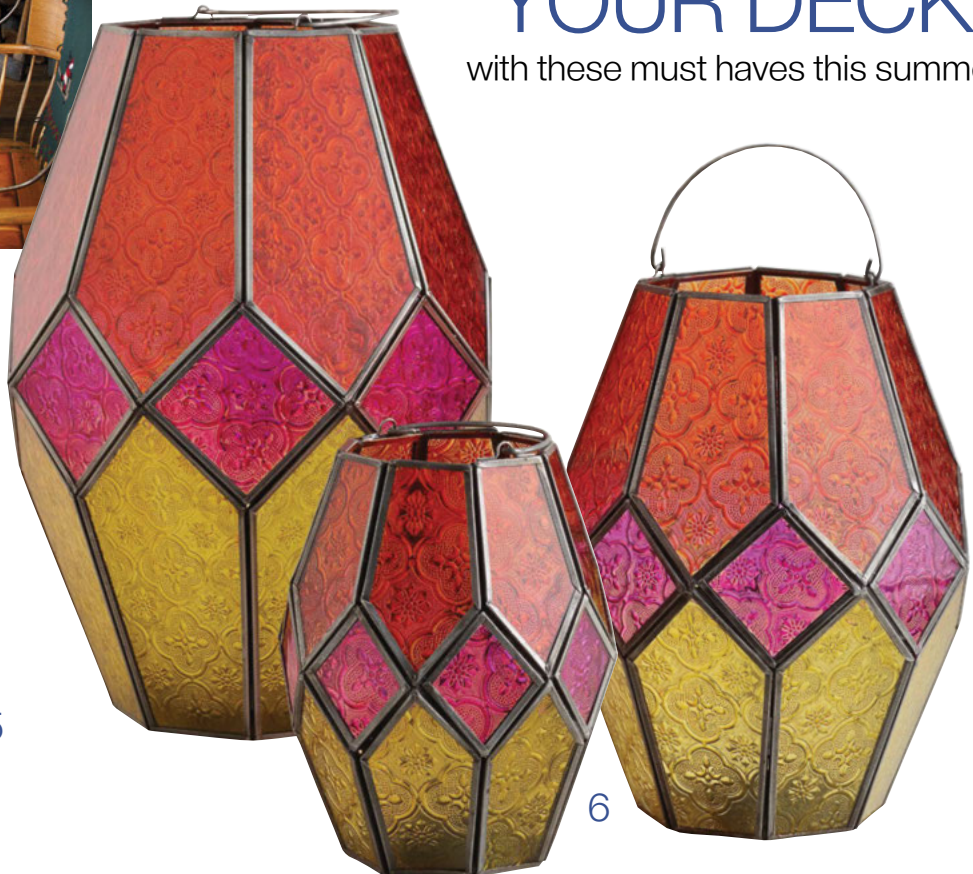
Dress YOUR DECK

with these must haves this summer

5



6





1. Feel like you're in a garden with this all-weather **Dolce Novella grey rug**. Made by Courtisan, the flat woven pile dries fast after rain showers so your feet will stay dry as you walk across the blooming flowers. outdoorrugsonly.com

2. We make no apologies for our love of intense colors. Bold yet understated, traditional yet contemporary, indoorsy yet outdoorsy. These fun, whimsy **cabana pillows** are sure to brighten up your deck! Made of polyester fabric that's UV-protected. pier1.com

3. Every steak will have its day on this **Sovereign 90 grill** from Broil King. With more aluminum housing and more stainless steel components than the competition, this is touted as THE hottest grill available. With great barbecues every time you'll soon earn the name of Master Chef! fireplacecenterkc.com

4. This **HANDY Roark flower pot** lends a green thumb (and fingers!) to make your flowers look striking. Made of cement with an aged patina, it's a great conversation piece. nfm.com

5. A sure conversation piece, this white **outdoor beverage table** has a rounded indent perfect for filling with river stones, fruit, or ice and favorite beverages. Handcrafted of lightweight concrete/resin mix, the hand painted finish is outdoor safe. Available at Neiman Marcus in St. Louis or at neimanmarcus.com

6. Bring a taste of the exotic to your deck with these warm, multicolor **Hanging Hurricane lanterns**. Inspired by Moroccan and Mughal artwork, this eclectic lantern is handcrafted by artisans in India. Available in small, medium and large sizes, sold separately. worldmarket.com

7. Have it made in the shade with this large **Cantilever umbrella** offering a multitude of shade solutions for your deck. With its multi-position it's easy to shade several areas. aminis.com

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9. Bring a hint of color to your outdoor space with this **Uma Enterprises 3-piece metal planter set**.

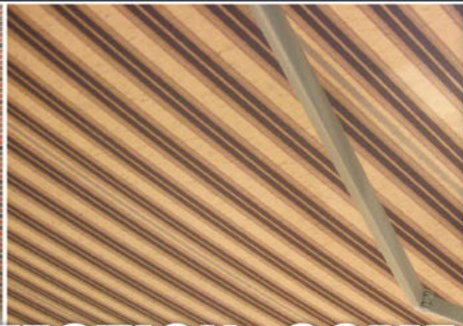
Featuring a weathered red finish, these stylish round planters are sure to please wherever they are placed. nfm.com



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Nature's **EMBRACE**





Creative greenscaping transforms Lee's Summit lakeside home into a serene sanctuary.

Envision a backyard that encourages getting lost in Mother Nature's simple splendor.

Think tranquil lake views, whispering breezes, sun-dappled groundcover and splashes of perennial color. Imagine rushing sounds of trickling currents, soft insect chirrups, hidden stone terraces and woodsy scents drifting on the breeze.

This is exactly what Gary Weidenbach, landscape designer, BSLA, and owner of Kansas City, Mo.,-based Rosehill Gardens, masterfully created at one Lee's Summit, Mo., residence.

'Sounds like Disney World'

Weidenbach's connection to the Woodland Shores residence dates back to 2004 when the home was created, designed and copywrote by prominent Kansas City builder/developer Jim Riffe. Riffe wanted to create a home that would capitalize on the lake and set the tone for the development. Talented Boulder, Colo.,-based designer Jim VanderVorste partnered in the home's unique design in collaboration with esteemed local architect Scott Bickford of Bickford + Company.

Being set on a lush lake lot, the home was designed to blur the distinction between the interior and outdoors. Riffe enlisted the landscaping talents of Weidenbach to achieve this goal and again in 2005 to add curb appeal to the home's front elevation.

The home was tapped as a Kansas City Parade of Homes entry in 2005 and was also showcased that same year in the heavily attended Dream Factory Tour, during which one person per minute reportedly toured the home.

Wayne and Shirley Haub were among the masses who walked through the home during the Dream Factory Tour. They fell instantly in love with the rustic, authentic Colorado style of the two-story home that overlooks Prairie Lee Lake in Lee's Summit.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE



The couple purchased the home and two adjoining lots and began contemplating how they might transform their sizable property into a private wooded sanctuary.

The Haubs turned to Weidenbach and his thorough understanding of the lot for direction on how to connect the front landscaping with the rest of the property.

While Weidenbach was eager to tackle the project, the challenges that lay ahead were clear and tangible.

Construction was still ongoing in the area and much of the land was bare dirt, patchy grass and untamed trees. Additionally, existing trees had been compromised and the rugged, sloping lot presented myriad logistical challenges.

But perhaps the project's most formidable element was the backyard's steep 100-foot drop to the lake below.

However, in every challenge lies opportunity, and Weidenbach devised an incredible master plan that he felt worthy of the uncommon lot.

"I presented the plan and the response I got from the client was, 'It sounds like Disney World; let's do it.'"

A Master Plan

Where a rough, earthy canvas once sat awaiting new life, a cascading panorama of flora, fauna, lake water and shaded pathways now merge in a stunning celebration of all things nature-inspired.

Behind the house, a brook appears to bubble from under the home's foundation and trickles down a winding course, meandering through the sloping terrain toward the lake and the expansive private teak wood dock.

The master design plan encompassed a large 8-by-15-foot koi fish pond near the house, multiple staggered stone terraces for Adirondack chairs, stone retaining walls, a flagstone path and a wooden staircase.

Additionally, more than 100 feet of divergent streams ultimately fuse together in a picturesque waterfall that splashes over weathered limestone boulders into Prairie Lee Lake.

"The whole idea of the water feature was to make it seem like a Colorado-style stream flowing from under the house all the way down to the lake," says Weidenbach.

The entire project employs a two-pump system that incorporates recirculated and filtered lake water throughout the water features, the irrigation system and the koi pond, making this project a truly conservational effort.

Roughly 200 evergreen trees, 300 deciduous trees, 1,500 shrubs and over 2,000 perennials have been installed to bring a genuine woodland effect to the softscaping.

"There are three grass terraces for relaxing and entertaining that overlook the lake," says Weidenbach. "The landscape style itself is very natural, but also ties back to the architectural lodge look."

Weidenbach says the project has taken on a life of its own and that the production is ever-changing.

"Account managers Jennifer Slusher and Jim Cardoza maintain this project weekly and, seasonally, we install approximately 5,000 annuals, pansies and mums and 2,000 fall bulbs," says Weidenbach. "It is hard to find a client who has the same passion for landscape as we do, but when it happens, it sure makes our job fun."

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE





“When you step on this property,
you just want to leave the world at the street.”

~ Gary Weidenbach



Colorado Comfort

The Haub family is tight-knit; their daughter, son-in-law and grandkids reside in a house they built on the next lot over.

Weidenbach artfully created winding crushed limestone paths between the two homes that lead to a shared stone terrace where a fire pit and cut-stone picnic table sit beneath a canopy of trees.

Keeping watch nearby is an ornate family of owls carved into a 10-foot-tall trunk of an old oak tree that had to be cut down for health reasons. The beautiful owl sculpture commemorates a family of owls that once nested in the tree in its more vibrant days.

While Wayne and Shirley Haub revel in the peace and tranquility of their secluded leafy retreat, Weidenbach enjoys observing the continued evolution of this setting so reminiscent of a mountain getaway.

He still oversees the weekly maintenance, corrective pruning and planting of such seasonal gems as trailing snapdragons, alyssum and calibrachoa in the spring and mums, kale and pansies in the fall, as well as a variety of potted flowers.

There are virtually no bare spots to be found among the lush landscaping that envelopes the home and serves as a safe haven for critters including squirrels, beavers and the occasional snake.

Weidenbach says the project is one of the most unique properties he has dealt with in his more than 25 years of professional landscaping in the Kansas City area.

"This residence truly offers resort living to the fullest," says Weidenbach. "When you step on this property, you feel so comfortable. You just want to leave the world at the street." ■

Resources

Landscape Designer | Rosehill Gardens

Home Builder | Riffe Homes

Home Architect | BVZ Architects

Home Architect | Bickford + Company



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All Decked Out



No matter their size or shape, imaginative and functional decks make outdoor living enjoyable and easy.

More than just a space to put a table and a few outdoor lounge chairs, decks have come into their own in the past decade as the designs and features available have allowed them to become more of a viable living space.

According to Bryan Delap, President of All Under One Roof, Inc., more and more homeowners are discovering the enjoyment of partnering the exoticness of the outside with the inside, and as a result are spending more time outside, especially when adding details such as televisions, outdoor kitchens, screened in areas, fireplaces and ceiling fans. It's a great way to add additional living space to the home.

"Adding a structure such as a nice deck definitely adds value to a home, especially when it can create a place where the outdoors and the indoors are effortlessly brought together," Delap noted.

Further, many of these decks can be enjoyed year-round, despite varying temperatures, as the covered areas can be outfitted with fireplaces and heaters and can also be retrofitted with Plexiglas for added warmth during the winter months.

Certain styles of decks include the relatively simple ones that are adjacent to the home. There are also raised and tiered decks, as well as two-story structures, some providing storage space underneath. For homes without a natural deck location contiguous to the house, freestanding decks are a great option.

Among the most popular materials used to build a deck include the popular pressure-treated lumber, which is affordable and readily available across the US; redwood and cedar, used for their rich color and natural beauty; and composites, such as Trex, Timber Tech and Veranda, which are composed of wood fibers and recycled plastic which translates to a product that is weather and stain resistant.

With a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and designs, decks provide a fun and entertaining way to fully maximize a home's living space. And because we live in a world with so many options for almost everything, decks are no exception. The design ideas are seemingly endless. Today's decks are not just an outdoor appendage to the house. They have truly become part of the home. And when maximized to their fullest potential, decks can become a whole new living space while simultaneously offering a significant lifestyle improvement.

No matter what your budget, there is a design that can meet your needs. In addition to the standard materials used to build a deck, creativity is the most popular piece of the structure. Decks can be dressed up with inviting seating areas, plants and assorted containers, painted furniture and fun accent pieces. These outdoor living spaces seamlessly combine function, style and comfort and most often provide the best seat in (okay, out of!) the house.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE

Form & Function

— Photos by William Spreadbury

This Overland Park residence boasts a deck so versatile that it seamlessly connects the inside to the outside. French doors leading from the home's kitchen area to the deck invite fresh air in and extended living space out.

Designed and constructed by All Under One Roof, Inc., along with input from the client, this deck artfully combines both form and function, providing an outdoor living space where friends and family can gather to enjoy a meal fresh off the grill while the kids play in the expansive backyard. It's where creativity and versatility intersect and the result is nothing short of outstanding.

Among the exciting features and outstanding details on the exposed deck are prefabricated iron spindles and a custom fabricated gate at the top of the stairs designed to keep the family dog off the deck. The creative herringbone design of the deck flooring complements the lattice enclosure

below, which offers a perfect place for storage. The light cedar color with the redwood band provides a rich appeal with an inviting flair.

"The entire surface structure is made of composite material, so it is a very low maintenance deck," noted Bryan Delap, president of All Under One Roof, Inc.

The screened in porch is accented by a "candy tray" ceiling, which slopes over the stone fireplace. The tongue-in-groove car siding, made of a walnut mahogany stain, adds a warm ambiance, creating that feeling of bringing the inside outdoors, especially with the added touches of the flat screen television and ceiling fan.

"It's fun for me to see something like this all come together," emphasized Delap, who also noted that a project such as this could not have been completed without the talent, dedication and hard work of his entire team of skilled craftsmen.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE





Resources

Contractor: All Under One Roof | French door to porch: Andersen Doors | Electrical fixtures: Wilson Lighting
 Screen porch material: McCray Lumber | Deck, staircase railing & rail caps: Kansas City Deck Supply
 Fireplace: Henges Insulation | Furniture — screened-in porch: Pottery Barn | Furniture — deck: Seasonal Concepts
 Hanging plants & most plants: KAT Nursery | Gutters, roof, painting and stone installation: All Under One Roof



Multi-Level Entertaining

— Photos by Matt Kocourek

This Lenexa residence boldly colored outside the lines when it came to creating an outdoor living area with a personality all its own.

What first catches one's eye is the porcelain tile that is made to replicate the look of slate.

"This is a porcelain multicolor material produced in Italy," said Gayle Jagoda, designer with Schloegel Design Remodel Company. "Images of slate are transferred to the tile to recreate the beauty of natural slate tile."

Prior to undergoing its transformation, the existing cedar deck required a lot of structural considerations and input from architects and structural experts.

The deck floor was lowered to accept the thickness of the new tile installation, and a Schuler drainage system was installed that is designed to route any water that may permeate through the tile to the perimeter of the deck to drain

into a buried downspout, creating a waterproof deck floor.

The area below the deck was excavated to allow for ample headroom. The lower portion was then screened in with the same tile on the floor as above on the deck to create the screened-in porch that the homeowners dreamed of. Ceiling fans below and above, along with a sound system, add to the relaxed and inviting atmosphere of the space.

"A pergola was constructed above the upper deck to help filter out the afternoon sunlight," stated Jagoda.

Among other features are wrought iron spindles, oil-rubbed bronze post caps to complement the spindles, accent lighting and a rustic split-face lower wall comprised of a thin natural stone veneer capped with limestone slabs with chiseled edges. The upper deck is easily accessed from the kitchen and the lower porch level can be accessed from the basement or the new patio area.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE



Resources

Contractor: Schloegel Design Remodel | Sliding French door: Kansas City Millwork
Excavation, foundation and flatwork: Randy's Custom Contracting | Electrical fixtures: Wilson Lighting
Electrician: PK Electric | Cedar decking and pergola material: Owen Lumber
Deck and staircase railing and rail caps: Kansas City Decking | Gutters: Ratliff Guttering and Siding
Tile, stone installation: Eddie Cummings Tile | Paving stone, wall and fire pit cap: Sturgis Materials
Natural Autumn porcelain tile (deck and porch floors): Central States Tile



For Your Viewing Pleasure

While most decks typically enhance the backside of a home, this long-standing residence that bears an Olathe address but is truly out in the country, brings charm and ambiance to the front yard with an eye-catching rosewood deck with a teak border made of Timber Tech wood, a synthetic material that is impervious to stains and scratches.

"This deck has become a second living space for the homeowners," noted Jake Matthew, project manager at Total Home Remodeling. "This home has been in the family for years and sits on a large piece of land. The backyard is essentially a wooded area, and the front yard provides a scenic view of the wildlife and nature all around them."

The view is unparalleled, too, especially on the Fourth of July,

and it was this deck that sealed the deal for the homeowners when the opportunity to build it was presented to them.

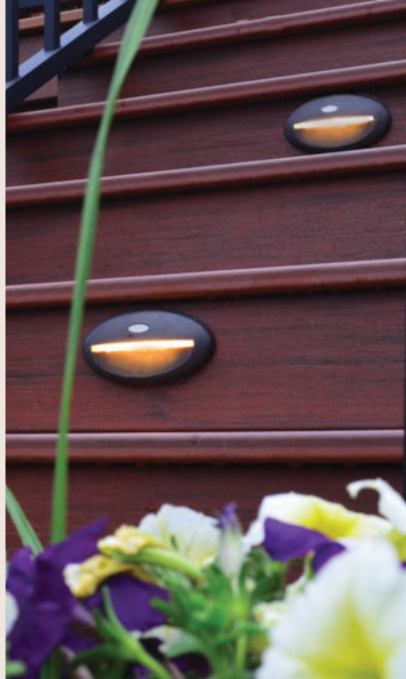
"They get to see several fireworks shows from all over," said Matthew. "There is not one bad seat on this deck."

Glass panels used throughout the deck allow for uninterrupted views and the aluminum railing gives the appearance of wrought iron while riser lights within the stairs leading up to the deck provide a soft and welcoming appeal at night.

The extended corner of the deck off to the side not only softens the space but also allows for an extra dining room.

"Now that they have this deck, the family is outside constantly, enjoying the wildlife, and they have made it another part of their home," said Matthew. ■

— Photos courtesy of Total Home Remodeling



Resources

Contractor: Total Home Remodeling | Landscaper: Out-Landish
 Striped Pillows: Calvin Kline Home | Vase with flowers: Tommy Bahama Home
 Croche pillow: Broyhill Home | Trellis Pillows, Tray, Tea Towels: Home Goods
 Napkins, runner, throw, find jow pillow: Cynthia Rowley
 Plates and bowls: Royal Doulton | Placemats: World Market



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TESTIMONIALS

"I enjoy working with Lynne. She has giving me a sense of hope for the future and makes me feel no matter what difficulties I might be facing at the time, there is light at the end of the tunnel." ~Terry B.

"Lynne has been extraordinarily helpful to me in dealing with issues of social anxiety and a lack of real world experience as I attempt to make the transition from cloistered academic to working person in the world. Her calm demeanor, warm personality, and broad knowledge of available resources are just about the best mental health support for which I could ask." ~Matthew S.

"Working with Mrs. Weilert has been such a blessing! She has taught me so many different things! My life has been very complicated and that is OK because some of the most beautiful stories unfold from some of the most difficult and complicated situations. I cannot imagine working with anyone else that would be more open and real with me than she has been, and I can't imagine where my life would be now if I hadn't met her." ~Ashley G.

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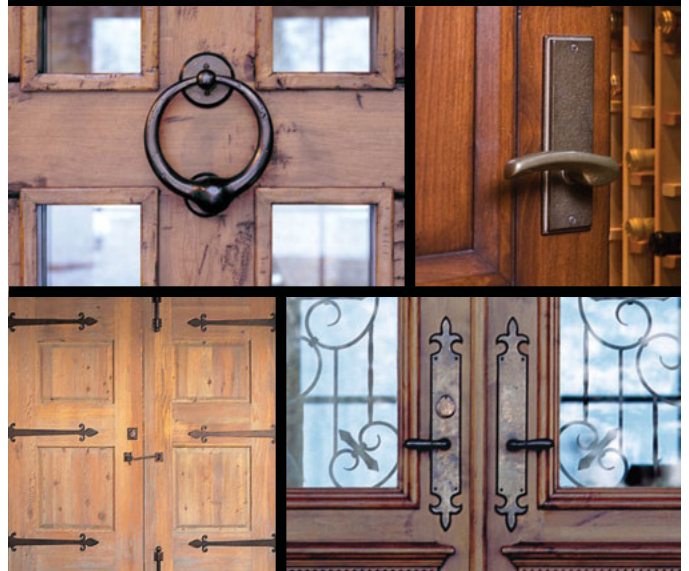
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Touches of *Whimsy*

Story by Jeanie Erwin
Photos by Matt Kocourek



A Lake Quivira backyard makeover that delights the imagination.

Developed in the 1920's as a unique residential and recreational community, Lake Quivira has lived up to every romantic expectation of a recreational retreat. For nearly a century it has remained a bulwark against the busy lives led outside this lakeside haven.

The best things in life, however, are sometimes defined by the smallest things; such as a space that has evolved from one's own imagination. One Lake Quivira homeowner set out to do just that with help from expert landscape designer Kelly VanElders. Wanting a backyard space that was more than just a place to enjoy an occasional barbecue, VanElders and the resident created a meaningful and invigorating space that delights the imagination and the soul.

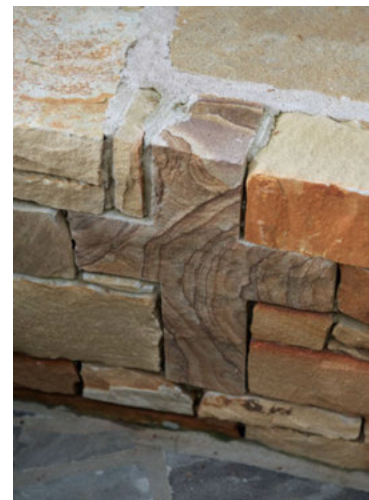
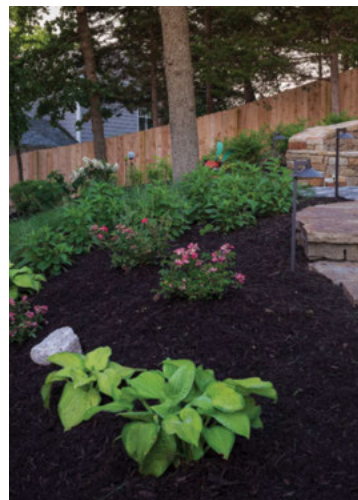
"Lake Quivira is a residential lake community. Each home was a custom home and so reflected the needs and design preferences of the owner. This gave the community a very eclectic and authentic feel which it retains to this day; even though many of the original homes have been either modified or torn down for new structures," VanElders explained of the community.

Since recreational pursuits are so close at hand, the resident wanted a space that was more about peaceful relaxation derived from nature.

"The backyard was a blank slate except for a few existing oak trees," VanElders began. "It is built on a rather steep incline with about a 20-foot incline from front to back of the property. This caused some drainage challenges which had to be considered and addressed in the design."

The result was a timeless design that looks both pulled directly from nature, yet intricately designed. The property lends itself to an undulating and freeing design that leaves the straight edges and symmetry so common to most designs, behind.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE





Resources

Landscape Architect: **VanElders Design Studio**

Contractor: **AKA Masonry**

Custom Iron Fencing: **KC Forged**

Wood fencing: **Guier Fence**

Irrigation: **Ryan Lawn and Landscape**

"The lawn area is oval shaped and includes the addition of spruce and magnolia tree to complement the existing oak trees. We also included some perennials and shrubs to highlight and accent but not overpower the design."

The patio area is a seamless extension of the lawn and avoids the abrupt disruption with a curved edge transition.

"The patio incorporates natural stone and, for the outdoor fireplace, the exact same brick as incorporated into the home structure. The wall and the flooring use sandstone. Except for the floor and the low wall seating hearth directly in front of the fireplace, there is no smooth surface."

The back wall which incorporates the fireplace, serves as an additional retaining structure but also a beautiful point of interest, with a rough natural face and many recessed areas to add beauty and function.

"To the left of the fireplace as you face it is a circular end cap which serves as a planter, or as a beverage center. Above that and moving to the right is a storage area accented by silver doors. To the right of the brick fireplace is a 24 inch deep area to store cut wood. Throughout the wall area are small 5 inch deep areas meant to hold candles for additional ambiance," described VanElders.

The natural stone flooring also holds unexpected touches.

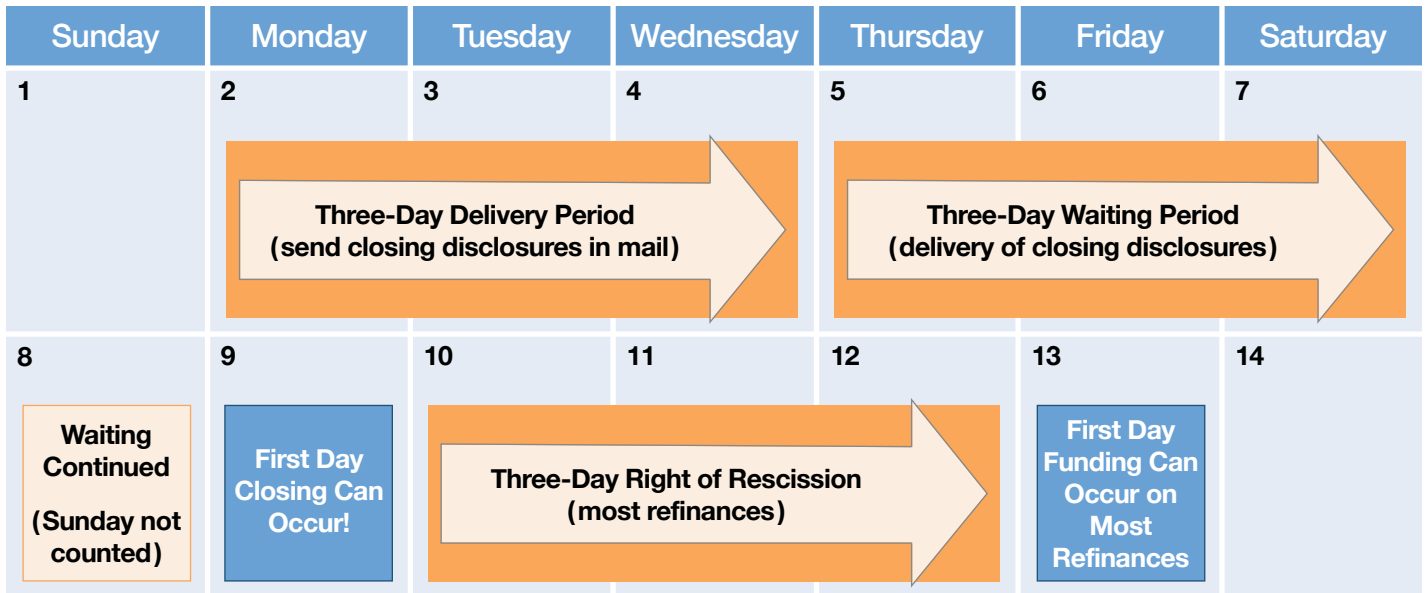
"The owner wanted to include a subtle touch that many may not even notice, or know the significance. As you look at the flooring, you will see many natural variations of color and woven into that design are three-inch quartz stars that reflect the position of Orion's Belt in the night's sky. It is intended to add interest, but be subtle enough that would be missed with only a cursory view. Like every other feature of this backyard design, it is like a gift that you find with observation," VanElders concluded of the Lake Quivira gem. ■



WHY YOU'RE IN DANGER OF CLOSING DELAYS

(AND HOW TO AVOID THEM)

Closing delays are one of the many unintended consequences of recent government regulation. Starting in October 2015, mortgage lenders are required to prepare a new "Closing Disclosure" and adhere to new timelines (see illustration below). This means that any last-minute changes to your deal structure could cause delays of up to a week on purchase transactions, and up to two weeks on refinance transactions. Delays can be even longer if your transaction is taking place anytime close to a federal holiday.



Here are five things you should do in order to avoid unnecessary delays:

1. Write a longer timeline into your purchase agreement so that you don't have to amend the purchase agreement later on. For most of us, the most difficult part of the transaction now will be adjusting and lengthening the current time frames from contract to closing to allow for mailing and delivery of the Closing Disclosure.
2. Make sure your purchase agreement is properly worded if you have seller concessions or seller-paid closing costs (last-minute changes may reset the timelines back to the beginning).
3. Lock your interest rate for a longer period of time because rate lock extensions are likely to trigger new disclosures and reset the timelines back to the beginning.
4. Schedule the inspection and the appraisal as early in the process as possible in order to give yourself and the seller enough time to make adjustments if necessary.
5. Turn in your paperwork ASAP so that unforeseen issues don't cause more delays. In any mortgage transaction this is the most important step to insuring that you close on time.

As you can see, it's more important than ever for you to work with a skilled lender! We have been preparing for this implementation since last year. We are ready to meet your closing date. Please contact me for more details.



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EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY AT THE



Gaslight Grill owner, Dick Hawk, hosted some Emporia State University alumni and friends for an evening of entertainment in Gaslight Grill's Back Room. The event featured mingling over cocktails, a three course wine dinner and dancing to the music of Lynn Zimmer and the Jazz Band. Mike Kennedy of radio station Q104 joined Hawk in presenting ESU representatives who discussed happenings at the University.



1. Steve & Teresa Martin
2. Eric Hughes & Dick Hawk
3. ESU Women's Basketball Coach Jory Collins and Casey Collins
4. Mike Kennedy of station Q104 and Nycki Pace of 99.7 The Point
5. Pam Cordle, Laveta Cobb, David Cordle (ESU Provost) & Myrl Cobb
6. ESU representatives Brian Denton, Jennifer Denton, Shane Shivley and Mary Shivley
7. ESU Foundation Board Chair Kim Penner



Join the Fun!

The Kansas City Walk to Defeat ALS 9 a.m. Saturday, September 19, 2015 Arrowhead Stadium



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A portion of the proceeds from our STARS participants will benefit the ALS Association/Keith Worthington Chapter and each participant will become a virtual walker with our Kansas City Homes & Style's STARS team or join us for the walk and help us reach our goal.



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www.WalktoDefeatALS.org

Out and About

We've got you covered from head to toe with stylish hats and sandals that are guaranteed to up your summer style quotient!



Smell the Roses at the Arboretum

Grab a sundress and pair it with J. Crew's straw boater hat, available in natural or dark cobalt. The Oakland toe-ring sandals from Gentle Souls will keep your feet comfy while covering the 300+ acres of Overland Park's botanical gardens!

Hat: \$45.00. jcrew.com

Sandals: \$150.00. garnethill.com



First Friday at the Crossroads

Browse local artists' wares in this super-fly fedora from LeTom, made of Papyrus straw and shown in dark brown. Available at Boticca, a global marketplace for independent designers. Don't miss a step in the Voyage sandal by Reef, with leather upper and footbed, cork midsole and Vibram lug outsole, shown in charcoal.

Hat: \$70.00. boticca.com

Sandal: \$105. reef.com



Take in a Ballgame

Don't let the sun at the K get in your way from seeing every play! The women's woven paper fedora with ribbon band from San Diego Hat Company comes with a choice of denim, cayenne or black band. And why not add a touch of Royal(s) blue to your toes too? Dr. Scholl's® Jada wedge sandal features fabric upper in navy stripe with a Memory Fit® foam insole.

Hat: \$31.00. sandiegoth.com

Sandals: \$79.99. drschollsshoes.com

A Day at the Zoo

Don't miss the Wings of Wonder show at the Kansas City Zoo — your avian friends will appreciate this charming, cockatoo adorned hat from Eugenia Kim. Matching Circle Flip Flops, from Boden in neon coral, feature cut-out circles in patent leather upper with leather lining that will keep you stylish while strolling amongst the wildebeests!

Hat: \$390.00. shop.nordstrom.com

Sandals: \$78.00. bodenusa.com



Strolling the Plaza

Don't miss the Plaza Live! Courtyard concert series, featuring the best local and regional music acts every Thursday through Sunday. We love The San Diego Hat Company's ultrabraid sun brim with black ribbon bow chapeau paired with Anthropologie's Jasper & Jeera Pomona thong sandals, featuring hand-crafted beading and back zip. Just add a LBD and dance the night away!

Hat: \$39.00. sandiegohat.com

Sandals: \$128.00. anthropologie.com



Steal the Show at Starlight Theatre

From Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella to Chicago and Earth, Wind & Fire, Starlight has something for everyone this summer! For a stylish night under the stars, we love Madewell's widebrimmed straw fedora with leather braid, paired with (hometown wunderkind) Kate Spade's leather and calfhair wooden platform sandals.

Hat: \$65.00. madewell.com

Sandals: \$268.00. shop.nordstrom.com



Man of Nobility

OUTSTANDING
KANSAS CITY
MAN OF THE
MONTH



Connor Pence

RICK PENCE ESTATE SALES

A graduate of UMKC with a business degree is poised to take over his family business; Rick Pence Estate Sales. Participating with his father and mother at a very young age has given Connor a distinct advantage over his competition.

This young man has all the ingredients to be a success in his own right. He is humble, smart and has a work ethic long forgotten by many. It is truly my pleasure to introduce this young man who is working very hard to take over a family business that has been built on trust, integrity and relationships.

~ Zoe Herrington

Auction and estate sales are all Connor Pence of Pence Auction and Estate Sales knows, and all he wants to know.

“My dad started 35 years ago by selling antiques and the estate side eventually grew out of that. He went to auctioneer school to further his skills and enable him handle appraisals that require special certification.”

In the over the 35 years since the beginning the business, it has grown into one of the longest standing and most respected auction and estate sale businesses in the area. Few, if any other locally, have been around as long.

And it is clear that they devote a tremendous amount of time and passion into the success of the business which has grown by leaps and bounds over the years, and is currently undergoing some exciting changes. To manage the growth and to best serve customers, Connor will be managing the estate side, while his father concentrates on the auction side.

“We have grown so much that we have to really think about how we will serve our customers,” Connor explained. “While the responsibilities will be divided between my father and me, the transition will be seamless for the customer.”

The work is hard, demanding, and never ending; but it is enjoyable, he says.

“We have a great, dedicated, and service oriented team. They really are the best.”

The opportunity to work with the community also ranks high on why the work is so very rewarding.

“I feel fortunate because very often we are helping people through a very hard time, such as a death in the family. They may have to manage a houseful of belongings but just do not have the emotional energy to do so. When you are dealing with things with which you have an emotional attachment, it can be helpful to have an estate company handle it,” he explained. “We work at being sensitive to their needs and making the process relaxed and hassle-free for the seller.”

Our belongings tell a story of our lives and our journey, Connor contends.

“In this business, we help the story continue with renewed energy. So often it is the ignition point for two stories, actually. The object goes on to inspire someone new, and the seller goes on to achieve their goal. That is what makes this work so gratifying.”



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Lady of Nobility

Julia Misemer

KANSAS CITY GOLFER

Oftentimes, being the middle child is a challenge in itself, but this young lady turns this and any adversity into a positive learning experience with dignity and aplomb.

At the age of five, Julia was tagging along with her father. After a day of golf observation, a spark was ignited in this young lady who recently shot a 77, winning a local golf tournament. Her story is heartwarming and I invite you, our Kansas City community, to stand behind this stellar young lady:

~ Zoe Herrington

Fresh faced and full of exuberance, Julia Misemer is what the future of golf looks like. Having joined her father Todd Misemer on the course starting at age 5, her golfing journey began early.

"I would be on the driving range while he was on the course and I would just hit balls. I just loved the game," Julia brightly shares.

The early love of the game has developed into a serious talent that has opened many doors of opportunity for her.

"At six, we entered her in her first tournament through US Kids Golf. They were the only group that would allow a child that young to compete. At that time, the closest chapters were in Oklahoma and Texas, so we spent a lot of time driving, playing, and then turning around to come home each weekend," explains her father.

Soon, her father was inspired to encourage other local youth and began a local chapter, of which he serves as Director.

As Julia has continued to play her skills have increased, allowing her to move up to bigger tournaments and enjoy exciting events, says Todd.

Recently, Julia qualified for the Drive Chip and Putt National Finals held on Easter Sunday at Augusta Nationals. Winning for the longest drive in her age group and placing 4th overall, it was a specular event for Julia, but just being there was enough to inspire her.

"It was a true honor to play at one of the most famous golf courses in the world," Julia gushed.

One of the highlights came in a chance meeting for Julia, says her dad.

"J.J. Weaver, Head Golf Pro at Augusta National, knew that Julia hopes to attend Stanford in the future and introduced her to Condoleezza Rice, who was there attending the Masters, and who is currently teaching at the university."

The pair plan on hitting the Stanford course together sometime soon.

"Golf is an amazing sport," Julia asserted. "It teaches you so much — like math, science, strategy, patience, and integrity. It is not like any other sport. I just love it."

Julia hopes to qualify for the LPGA next year. She is getting stronger, and her dad says it is a real possibility. As for her future, well, adulthood is a long way off, but Julia does hope to play professionally, she says. Whatever the future holds, we know that Julia will pursue it with the same passion and integrity as she does the sport she has come to love.

OUTSTANDING KANSAS CITY WOMAN OF THE MONTH



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Adding Joy

BEST WAYS TO ATTRACT BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR GARDENS

There is something about the delicate balance of what we see in nature that reminds us of the fragility of life and the importance of bringing some small delight to each of our days. Maybe that is why our gardening takes on such meaning and purpose; because with it we unfurl beauty and invite in the tantalizing glimpses of the interconnectedness of life.

Gardening is always a journey, and gardening with the hope of attracting butterflies and birds is one of the most delightful of them all, and much easier than most people think.

Birds, butterflies and other wildlife have similar needs as humans, says Dennis Patton, Horticulture Agent at Kansas State Research and Extension, and when we meet those needs in diverse ways, you attract diversity.

"If you are gardening with the hope of attracting butterflies, birds and other critters, you need to keep three things in mind," he explained, "food, water, and shelter. If you provide those three things, you will attract wildlife."

Those basics are easily provided by the trees, plants and flowers in your yard, and by adding a simple birdbath. Exactly what you attract will depend on the diversity of your plants, flowers, trees, and shrubs.

ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES

The elements of a butterfly garden do not have to be all in one concentrated area of your yard, but attracting their loveliness does require a bit of planning. Butterflies prefer a sunny location with lots of trees and shrubs to protect them from wind and predators.

"If you really want to attract butterflies and create a butterfly habitat, you need to remember to plant for all stages of development. Most people think about providing nectar plants, which attract the adult butterfly, but you also need what is called host plants for butterflies to lay their eggs on and for the larval stage to feed on," Patton explained. "A successful garden will have some damage from the caterpillars feeding. We get excited when we see that."

The type of butterfly your garden attracts is largely dependent on what host plants you provide. While butterflies drink, or nectar, from a wide range of nectar plants, different kinds of butterflies lay their eggs on specific host plants on which they hatch and feed.

"Milkweed attracts Monarchs, for example, while parsley, dill, or fennel attracts Black Swallowtails."

Next you need to provide the perfect place to land, rest and nectar. Butterflies love bright flowers with large faces and petals because they act as a landing pad and support while they nectar. Flowers such as yarrow (*Achillea*) are perfect for this.

"Again, diversity is important. The size, shape and color of a flower's bloom will attract different butterflies to the nectar so having a wide variety will encourage many different kinds of butterflies to call your yard their home," Patton furthered.

For a complete list of plants that attract common butterflies, visit homesandstylekc.com


INVITING FEATHERED FRIENDS

A yard without the birds' melodious songs is just not complete, and the Kansas City area is fortunate to enjoy many of their sweet anthems. According to the Kansas Ornithological Society, Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project and the Kansas Biological Survey, there are 325 bird species observed in Johnson County alone. Attracting them to your yard regularly, however, takes more than putting up a few bird feeders.

"Again, remember food, shelter, and water as you add to your garden," urged Patton. "Plant with the wildlife in mind and choose options that are a good food source as well as shelter."

Trees such as the Rocky Mountain Juniper, Ponderosa Pine, Eastern Red-Cedar, and various species of Oak are all perfect for use in creating a bird habitat because they have dense foliage and provide a ready source of seed for food. Bushes such as Holly and Beautyberry are also a great source of food and shelter for wildlife.

Once you have created your bird and butterfly habitat, use habitat friendly practices to keep it healthy and safe. Do not use pesticides on the food, water and shelter areas of your yard, and mow on the highest setting to protect the larval stage. ■



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Fresh Catch



Photo courtesy of Jax Fish House and Oyster Bar
Opposite photo courtesy of The Bristol Seafood Grill

Our dock-to-door establishments proudly haul in a daily bounty of succulent seafood.

Let's face it we're unabashedly a turf-town. Little wonder it's taken awhile to mosey up to a mess of half-shells. We're not abandoning our on-the-hoof mentality rather; folks in the Metro have finally decided seafood is yet another frontier.

As a result, seafood is now in favor — so much so, fish houses cast a wide net beckoning with a range of varieties to suit the most discerning taste. If you're hankering for a tart ceviche or Maine lobster roll — neither are hard to find.

You don't have to wait for just any delectable cut but a cut that's impossibly fresh and more than likely, fished sustainably.

Throughout the Metro, as we head out to our local lakes, a dinner of fresh fish is never far from our minds. We might decide on Skuna Bay salmon feted with fennel, pomegranate and a celery root puree to shine. Such fish is prime at 801 Fish in Leawood with executive chef John Smith, of Delaware Café fame.

Smith is just the guy to dig into a slew of crabs, tails and big fish dishes we and the Des Moines-based 801 team expect. Also in the house, equally mouthwatering chops, an icy raw bar and decadent desserts can be enjoyed.

If you prefer to view your fish swimming around in the restaurant rather than the lake, Jax Fish House and Oyster Bar on the Country Club Plaza will give you an eyeful.



Starting with the impressive atrium, filled with marine décor that includes a dancing fish mobile and simulated boat overhead, here only the freshest can be sipped, slurped and shucked.

Hunkered down underneath two 10-foot aquariums separating the dining room from the raw bar, steamer pots bubble with seafood chowder, steamed mussels or clams, chicken and crawfish gumbo as chef de cuisine, Sheila Lucero and her team bring the coast to the coastless.

From fragrant mussels to the meatiest crab legs, this Boulder-based fish house expects everyone to get their hands dirty — after all, that's part of the fun!

Craving a crumbly drop biscuit and a rich bowl of New England clam chowder? The Bristol Seafood Grill is the pearl you're looking for.

Blessed with a memorable reputation and some memorable dishes, this seafood grill offers two locations where you can dive into the wildly popular Ancho-seared Chilean Sea Bass or creamy Lobster Mac 'n Cheese — Leawood Town Center Plaza and the Downtown loop.

Fish, both fresh water and deep sea, star every day lunch through dinner. And the Happy Hour is one of the best in town (if you can find a seat).

Landlocked though we may be, Kansas Citians know the net doesn't need to cast far to find fresh seafood. Savory dishes are an easy catch away. ■

801restaurantgroup.com ~ Jaxfishhouse.com ~ Bristolseafoodgrill.com

Float Your Cares Away



We're a lake family. Show us a shoreline and cool, refreshing water and we are in! The tranquility of the water, the sounds of nature and the feeling of all being right with the world is what keeps us going back. Summer is here again, and there is no better place to be than on the water. Kansas City may be land locked, but that certainly doesn't mean there aren't amazing shorelines in the area! From private community lakes to public lakes, you can choose from hundreds of acres of beautiful boat-worthy water. So grab your kayak, canoe, paddleboard or Jet Ski!

With over 20 area lakes to choose from in Kansas and Missouri, you are sure to find the perfect way to spend a hot summer day. Here are a few of our favorites!

Kansas Lakes

Shawnee Mission Park is home to a gorgeous 120 acre lake surrounded by a multi-use 1200 acre park. There is plenty of activity on the water! Love to kayak? This is the spot! Or take the kids out for an adventuresome paddleboard afternoon! And the fun doesn't

stop there! The park also has eleven shelters, numerous picnic areas, nature trails, play areas, an archery range, a 53-acre dog off-leash area, a disc golf course, and is a great place to enjoy mountain biking and horseback riding. It's also the largest park in the county and the most visited park in the entire state of Kansas.

One of our favorite lakes sits in a wonderful setting just 10 miles south of the metro. Hillsdale Lake attracts over 2 million visitors a year due to its awesome amenities and the amazing staff at Jayhawk Marina. Here you'll find several choices for exciting water recreation, such as boat, Jet Ski, cabin rentals and our favorite little gem — a 20 ft pontoon boat for you and up to 9 of your friends! We can hear Little Big Town now, can't you?

Located just 4 miles West of Lawrence, Clinton Lake is scenic and serene. It has one of the largest marinas in the state, a 25 mile hike/bike trail, 5 mile cross country ski trail, 1 mile self-guided nature trail, archery range, swim beach, sand volleyball, mountain bike skills course, 3 acre trout pond, 1 acre children's fishing pond, accessible shoreline use trail and 4 playgrounds for the kids. Take the kiddos out August 8th for Kids Day where they will have Fishing Clinic, Archery Target Practice, Animal Show-n-Tell and Sunset Yoga! What a great place for family fun!

And don't forget about Wyandotte County Lake Park boasting 1500 acres of fun, including a 400 acre lake and 16 picnic shelters.

Missouri Lakes

Grab your gear and head over to one of the most popular swimming areas in Jackson County! Longview Lake offers 930 acres of water entertainment, 14 picturesque shelters, beautiful sandy beaches, certified lifeguards and a full service marina with boat rental, marine supplies and annual slip rental. Feeling adventurous? Windsurfing is permitted Monday through Thursday from sunrise to sunset!

Love to sail? Set sail on Lake Jacomo, where windsurfing and sailing enthusiasts come together on the breathtaking 970-acre lake located in the heart of Fleming Park in Jackson County. Enjoy beautiful multicolored sailboat regattas, while pontoon boaters take a calming cruise across the water. With a mandatory maximum horsepower for Lake Jacomo at 25 horsepower, you can canoe, kayak and paddle to your hearts content!

And we'd be remiss if we didn't include the 720 acres of fun at Blue Springs Lake and Smithville Lake with its 7200 acres of water excitement, both with marinas and shelters — guaranteed to provide the perfect outing.

So grab the sunscreen and swimsuit! It's time for a nice, relaxing, fun-in-the-sun staycation with family and friends! Get out of the city, the hustle-and-bustle, feel the sand between your toes and breathe the fresh air! The water is waiting! Happy Summer Kansas City! ■



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